Warrant Officer and Junior Warrant Officer (JWO) of Air Force, Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO) and Chief Petty Officer (CPO) of Navy on active/retired list whose entitlement was in the range of 5-8 units per month have now been authorized 10 units per month uniformly.

(4) Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and Other Ranks (Lance Naik/Sepoy) of the Army, Sergeant, Corporal, Leading Air Craftsman (LAC) and Air Craftsman (AC) of Air Force, Petty Officer, Leading Seaman, Able Seaman, Ordinary Seaman of Navy on active/retired list whose entitlement was in the range of 2-5 units per month have now been authorized 6 units per month uniformly.

(5) Further, widows of service officers including Hony Commissioned Officers/Parent of unmarried deceased officers who were not entitled for any quota have now been authorized 6 units per month.

(6) The maximum monthly quota has been raised with a view to bring about some uniformity among different categories of Defence personnel. This quota is not only for the use of the individual" Officers, but also for official and social interactions/functions.

Warning signals of coast guard to fishermen

2473. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any arrangement for giving warning signals to fishermen who went into Pakistani waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of fishermen arrested by Pakistan due to failure on the part of Coast Guard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the warning system is streamlined?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Following arrangements exist for giving warning signals to fishermen:

(i) Weather bulletins including cyclone warning for fishermen are broadcast on AIR.

(ii) Storm warning signals in the form of flags/lights are displayed at all ports.

(iii) Related State Government Departments are informed of impending danger at sea so that they can also inform the fishermen.

(iv) In addition, regular instructional lectures are organised by Coast Guard to indicate maritime boundaries and safety precautions.

Fishermen being apprehended by Pakistan cannot be attributed to failure on the Part of Coast Guard as despite advice they do not keep within national maritime boundaries. It has been found that fishermen's boats are not properly equipped with communication and navigational equipment. In addition, some fishermen continue to disregard the advice given by Coast Guard and get apprehended by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (MSA).

Fishing in territorial waters (Up to 12 nautical mile) is a state subject and the operations of fishermen are governed by Marine Fisheries Regulation Act of the respective coastal states. The Union Government is responsible for administering operations of fishermen in deep sea (beyond 12 nautical miles and up to 200 nautical miles).

Coast Guard has recommended to State Governments to equip fishing vessels with basic radio communication equipment. The Union Ministry of Agriculture is examining a proposal of establishing satellite based Vessel Management System for fishing vessels.